

The Progressive Farmer.

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RALEIGH, N. C., SEPT. 8, 1887.

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ENDORSED BY THE CONVENTION.

The following resolution was passed by the Farmers' Mass Convention in Raleigh, January 26th, 1887:

Resolved, That THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, published by L. L. Polk, Winston, N. C., be declared the Official Organ of the North Carolina Farmers' Association, and that its Editor, L. L. Polk, be admitted to the privileges of the floor as an honorary member of this Convention.

We ask every Grange and Farmers' Club in the State to send us at once, the number of members in the organization, together with the name and post-office address of each officer.

PLEASE NOTICE.

In writing to this office to change the address of a paper, our subscribers will do us a favor by stating the office at which the paper is received, as well as the one to which it is desired to be sent. Failure to do this puts us to a great deal of trouble and the necessity of going through a long list of names, involving not only much work, but much loss of time, when time is valuable.

SUBSCRIBERS, READ THIS.

Is there a Cross Mark on the margin of your paper? We adopt this as the simplest and easiest method of informing our patrons that their terms of subscription have expired, and that the paper will be stopped if we do not hear from you. We know "times are hard" on everybody, and especially is this true of newspapers, and particularly agricultural papers. But we must help each other as best we can. If, therefore, you are not prepared to renew for the whole year, renew for a part of the time, and this will enable you to have time to make us up a club for which you will get the paper one year free of charge. So if you see the Cross Mark, let us hear from you.

WHAT IS THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE?

We publish on the first page an official and authoritative answer to this question from the President, Mr. C. W. Macune, of Texas. The order is being introduced into our State, and its progress is remarkable. It was being criticised adversely, and THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, always friendly to any effort on the part of the farmers to better their condition and to promote their interest, requested the President to write an article for its columns in answer to the question at the head of this article. He has done so, in a frank and candid manner, and so plainly that he "who runs may read." We had the pleasure of being associated with Mr. Macune in our duties as a delegate in the Atlanta Convention, and met the National Secretary, Mr. E. B. Warren, and other prominent members of the order, and we were most favorably impressed with their high gentlemanly bearing and their sound business capacity and integrity.

We do not doubt that when the principles and purposes of this order are well understood among the farmers of the South, it will be found to embrace on its roll a very large majority of them. We predict that in less than a twelve-month the farmers of this State will be counted on its rolls by tens of thousands. It numbers already three-fourths of a million in the Southern States.

ALL ABOUT THE STATE.

Each farmer's institute held in the State but adds to the force of the great principle of unity and increases the interest in them. We had the good fortune to attend the one held at Lexington last week and which was presided over with ability by Prof. J. L. Wright. The programme was good and the essays and speeches were good, and the liveliest interest was manifested by the large crowd of ladies and gentlemen present. Davidson is naturally one of the first counties of the State, and when her sturdy, substantial population, shall become thoroughly awakened to the splendid capabilities of their county, and shall put their heads, hearts and hands together in the grand work of developing them, then will they be strong indeed. We were delighted to find in the town a Canning establishment, owned and operated by the Hanes Canning Co. This Company grew its own tomatoes, and the operations this season are confined to that vegetable, but they contemplate enlarging the capacity and will put up apples, peaches, pears, blackberries and other small fruits. We pronounce their goods of the very best quality and they are put up in the neatest marketable styles. North Carolina should have today at least one thousand similar establishments running in full blast. We need and must have petty industries where our population of consumers can be changed into producers.

The farmers, their wives, sons and daughters in eastern Wake turned out en masse on the 1st inst. and had a genuine old-fashioned good time at Hepzibah church. The writer, Dr. W. G. Lewis, Capt. C. M. Cook, Mr. W. G. Upchurch and Mr. W. H. Hamilton addressed the large crowd. A good dinner and the best of good humor made it a most enjoyable occasion. The farmers in that section believe in co-operative effort and they are practicing it. They are organized and are determined to move.

At Warrenton, the home of refinement and culture and the center of an intelligent population, we found a large crowd in attendance on their first farmers' institute. We greatly regret that we could spend but one day with them. Mr. Elias Carr read a splendid paper, full of sound sense and practical suggestions on the necessity of a diversification of crops. It was a happy and fortunate thing that the management should have secured such a paper from such a man, on such a subject and from such a county as Edgecombe. It is the leading cotton county in the State and Mr. Carr is one of its leading farmers and his opinion is always respected, but on this particular subject it struck the crowd with peculiar force. Mr. W. G. Upchurch gave one of his practical and sound talks and elicited quite a number of questions from the audience which gave great interest and value to his speech. He too is one of our largest and most successful farmers and produces as much cotton per acre as perhaps any man in the State, but he cordially indorsed the position of Mr. Carr on the matter of "home supplies." And this is the slogan of the farmers' movement—raise your own supplies at home, and we intend, with the help of the good men of the State, to keep it up until we banish western bacon, western flour, western corn, western hay and foreign fertilizers from our State. If our farmers will raise their own supplies at home for ten years, we will be richest and most independent people in the world. Mr. S. Otho Wilson gave a lecture on grapes, one of the very best we have ever heard. He took the vines on the stage and illustrated the best methods of preparing them for planting and the best way of pruning them. The audience was deeply interested in his thoroughly practical lecture. Commissioner Robinson addressed the institute in a well-timed and clearly-cut speech, in which

there was much good wholesome advice and good suggestions. His speech was well received. The writer also made a talk touching some of the defects in our systems. We learn that Dr. H. B. Battle, of the Experiment Station, and Dr. R. H. Lewis, and Capt. W. H. Kitchen were to speak on the second and we regret that we could not hear him.

Let the ball keep rolling until every county in the State shall have its institute. It is an educator—it awakens interest—it arouses the farmer and puts him to thinking.

TWO IMPORTANT CONVENTIONS.

During the year 1888, there will be two important conventions held in our State. The first will be that of the North Carolina Farmers' Association, and will be held in the city of Greensboro on the second Wednesday in January, and is to be composed of representative farmers from every county in the State. We assume that these representatives will be designated by the farmers' organizations, where such exist, and that all organizations of farmers by whatever name will be represented. This convention will consider and discuss such matters as appertain to the interests of the farmers of the State, and we do not doubt that it will be an able and patriotic body and that its action will have an important bearing on the material and industrial development of the State. Mr. Elias Carr, of Edgecombe, one of the most practical, successful and intelligent farmers of the State, is the President of this body and Mr. B. F. Hester, of Granville, one of the leading tobacco farmers of the South, is Secretary.

We hope to see a lively interest in this convention, taken by our farmers throughout the State. Let them begin now to consider such matters as should come before it and make up their minds to attend it in person and contribute their aid in forwarding the noble efforts which are being put forth for the advancement of the farmers' interests.

The other is the Inter-State Farmers' Association, which is to meet in the city of Raleigh on the third Tuesday in August. This body is to be composed of delegates from all the counties of all the ten cotton States and it may be from other States. It will discuss and consider such matters as relate to the agricultural interests of the South especially. We hazard nothing in saying that for dignity, sound practical sense, and intelligence it will reflect credit on our section and that great good will follow its action.

North Carolina and the city of Raleigh will give this great body of agriculturalists a genuine Southern welcome, for no State in the South is now possessed of a more thorough and go-ahead spirit than our own. We know our farmers will be profoundly interested in the action of this important body of representative Southern farmers, and that they will flock hither by hundreds from all sections of the State to aid in giving it a rousing welcome.

OUR STATE FAIR.

With our fine crops and the enthusiastic determination which pervades the great mass of our farmers in all sections of the State, to improve their condition, we hope to see them avail themselves of the benefits to be derived from a liberal patronage of the State Fair, and to see thousands of them here on that occasion. Let every one of them bring something to put on exhibition. It will help the Fair—it will encourage the officers, it will do you good. Come to the Fair and bring something with you from your farm. Encourage your son and daughter to prepare something and bring them and the good wife along with you.

OUR BROTHERN OVER THE BORDER.

The farmers of South Carolina are falling into line. The tide wave has struck them. They are being aroused as never before. They are earnestly in earnest. They, like us, want an agricultural and mechanical college. They, like us, suffered their land scrip fund to be diverted to purposes other than those for which it was donated. And they, like us, see that it can be restored only by their united demand. They, like us, want to place their State Agricultural Department in the hands of those who are clearly entitled to manage it—the farmers of the State. And independent of this, they, like the farmers all over the South, begin to see and to feel that the time has come when the farmers must unite and protect their interests. They are beginning to learn the important truth that if the farmers' interests are to have proper attention they themselves must look after them.

Hence we do not now wonder that neither storm nor flood could deter them from attending the meeting that was called in Anderson county by the officers of their association, on the 23d ult. The writer was honored with a special and urgent invitation to be present, and rarely has it been his fortune to meet a more intelligent and substantial people than he found at Sandy Springs, and long will he remember the kindly greeting he received at the hands of President D. K. Norris and other friends. We had the pleasure of listening to Hon. J. E. Tindall, of Clarendon, Hon. M. L. Donaldson, of Greenville, and Capt. B. R. Tillman, of Edgefield, and the day is not distant when their purposes will be accomplished and their just demands heeded, if the speeches and the spirit which characterized that meeting shall govern them. It is proposed to hold a grand mass convention of the farmers in Columbia during the month of November, when their demands, we presume, will be formulated. It is a most hopeful and happy augury for the future, to see the farmers of the country manifesting such earnestness in looking after their interests. Organized co-operative effort is a power that is irresistible.

OUR PENITENTIARY SYSTEM.

Under this head we find an editorial in the News and Observer of the 3d inst. in answer to an article on the subject from its correspondent Mr. A. L. Mendenhall, of Randleman, N. C. Its correspondent pertinently asks if the bonds given to the State, by the railroads, for the hire of convicts, are not returned to the railroads, when the roads are finished? To this our esteemed cotemporary replies as follows:

"In the first place we supposed it was generally known that it is not the settled policy to return the railway bonds received for convict labor. Such return has been made in some instances but in obedience to the law, in each and every case. The matter is one which the legislature regulates."

And now THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, on behalf of the taxpayers of the State, would ask most respectfully, if it is any the less wrong—is it any the less an imposition on the taxpayers of the State, because it is done "in obedience to the law?" Is it any the less an outrage on the rights of the taxpayers, because "the matter is one which the legislature regulates?" Who is the legislature, if not the creature of the people? The position of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER on this subject is well known to its readers. It has spoken with no uncertain sound on this subject time and again. It protests against the giving away of the convict labor to individual or corporate enterprises. It maintains that the legislature has no right to do so—that it is the duty of the legislature to make the penitentiary as nearly self-sustaining as possible, and to this extent relieve our impoverished and struggling people of the enormous tax which is required to sustain it. We shall have something further to say on this subject.

THE ATLANTA CONVENTION AND THE TARIFF.

The action of the Inter-State Farmers' Convention on certain anti-tariff resolutions has been greatly misunderstood or greatly misrepresented, by papers North and South. The resolutions referred to were introduced in the last moments of the convention—at a time when it was evident that the convention would adjourn in a few minutes, and when, as the full vote showed, there were only 93 members in their seats. The resolutions were tabled by a vote of 67 to 27, several of the State delegations voting solidly to table them. The vote was not regarded in the convention as an expression of the sentiment of that body on the merits of the question, for it was well known that a large number voted in favor of tabling the proposition who were as stalwart anti-tariff men as can be found in the whole country.

It being well understood that the convention was ready to adjourn, and that a majority of the delegates had left the hall, it was regarded as improper and impolitic to open the question at that late hour. These, we believe, were the reasons which prompted the delegation from our State to cast the vote solidly for tabling it, and were the reasons for the votes of delegations of other States as we were informed.

THE STATE SHOULD SELL IT.

Our Governor's Palace, when completed and finished, will have cost not less than \$100,000. We oppose this large expenditure of money in this direction. We want no such home for our Governors. We would have him live like a citizen-gentleman and not like a money lord or king. A twenty-five thousand dollar residence is good enough for any man, who is good enough to be Governor of this unpretentious people. We are unalterably opposed to any line of policy which precludes or discourages the middle class of our people—that class which is the bulwark of our public morals and liberties—from aspiring to positions of trust and honor. Complete that building with its palatial surroundings and magnificent appointments and who can occupy it on a three thousand dollar salary? No one except the man who is too poor to have his shirt washed, or the one who is so rich that he cares nothing about the salary. We shall call upon the sensible, conservative taxpayers of the State to demand of the next legislature that it be sold, and that a home be provided for our Governors which will at least not preclude the middle class from a showing at the office.

THE HOMESTEAD.

The Forest City News in discussing the Homestead law says: Our political candidates, discuss with much eloquence, the Tariff, Internal Revenue laws, the surplus in the Treasury, and a thousand other things; but to the people of North Carolina, the repeal of the homestead law is a hundred fold more important. Not as the organ of any political party, but as a friend to the best interests of the country, we say after careful consideration that the homestead is the greatest impediment to the onward march of the grand old North State. It has inaugurated a universal credit system which means 100 per cent on cash value. It has begotten that detestable practice of running on "chattel mortgages," usually termed crop mortgages. It has either driven out or locked the cash in the vaults, so that it cannot be had except at exorbitant premiums, usurious interest. It has offered rewards of premiums to the most cunning tricksters. It has made the moneyed man more merciless in his exactions from his less fortunate fellow-men. It has made the poor man more abject in his poverty. It has converted honest hearts into vile and dishonest ones. It has negated St. Paul's admonitions to "Pay what thou owest." Subscribe to PROGRESSIVE FARMER.